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IDEA 0103

Copy 4 of 5

16 December 1960

MEMORANDUM FOR: Acting Chief, DPD

SUBJECT: IDEALIST Southeast Asia Operations

1. Operational coverage of Southeast Asia can be accomplished within the capabilities of IDEALIST assets. There are four alternative methods:

a.

b.

c.

d.

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25X1C

2. This memorandum is based upon the assumption that a minimum of ten sorties in a thirty day period will satisfy reconnaissance requirements for this operation. The ten sortie planning factor is based on the probable effects of target weather and the anticipation for repeat coverage as well as possible additional coverage of other target areas not presently identified.

3. Operational factors will require the following:

a. Approximately 34 persons at a staging base to service two aircraft and associated camera and electronic systems as well as provide communications.

b. Approximately 30,000 pounds of equipment to include film and spare parts for ten sorties.

c. Two U-2 aircraft to insure operational reliability.

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d. Pre-positioned fuel on the order of 25,000 gallons at the staging base.

e. Pre-positioned fuel (6000 gallons) at an intermediate launch/retrieve base for ferry flights. If [] is used as a staging base, two U-2 enroute refuelings required.

f. One C-124 and one C-130 for transport of the staging party to both the intermediate launch/retrieve base and the final staging base. Ideally two C-130B's could handle the airlift and would result in a saving of approximately 10 hours.

25X1C

g. [] would be required.

25X1C

4. Staging at [] is considered the least practicable because of the additional time involved in positioning of the staging team, the additional amount of support equipment required, and the greatest distance from source of fuel and other supplies as well as from the film processing site. If certain requirements dictated a post-strike at [] a minimum recovery team could be positioned. 25X1C

25X1C

25X1A

5. To operate from [] will seriously impede the development of [] as an operational entity. This in itself could easily destroy the rapport between Headquarters and [] 25X6

25X6

25X1C

[] An important consideration in this respect is that the impact of U-2's [] has yet to be experienced. It must be recalled that there is neither aircraft, camera, [] systems capability now effective at [] nor is it likely before 1 January 1961. 25X1D

25X1C

25X1A

[] course of action are essentially the same as in the preceding paragraph. In both the mentioned actions passport and visa requirements will consume additional time.

25X1A

7. The final alternative [] to stage into [] is the best solution. Aircraft, equipment, and personnel are all checked out in staging operations. The staging kit from Detachment B will facilitate orderly movement from Edwards. They can be in place at [] 72 hours after departure from Edwards if C-130B's are used. 25X1C

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25X1C 10. All factors considered it is recommended that this proposed operation be staged from [] with personnel and equipment from Detachment G.

25X1C 11. A chart depicting the ferry movement and operating radii from [] is available in the Plans Section for briefing purposes. A book along the lines of this proposal will be prepared for use in briefing the Deputy Director (Plans) and other officials if you approve this recommendation.

25X1A

[]
Chief, Operations Branch, DPD-DD/P

APPROVED:

STANLEY W. BEERLI
Colonel USAF
Acting Chief, DPD-DD/P

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